

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Official Product
DATE: January 28, 2003***

U.S. DROUGHT OUTLOOK DISCUSSION

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) issues a Drought Outlook discussion for the remaining part of the month of issuance plus the next three months.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The product is intended to provide a detailed explanation for the basis of the U.S. Drought Outlook.

3. Audience:

The audience is primarily decision makers in agricultural, water supply, and fire weather management.

4. Presentation Format:

Cpc presents the outlooks in text format in AWIPS and the CPC web site.

5. Feedback Method:

E-mail both Robert.Leffler@noaa.gov and Barbara.Mayes@noaa.gov.

Part 2 - Technical

1. Format and Science Basis:

CPC provides a prognostic discussion detailing the atmospheric, hydrologic, and climatic conditions affecting the trends of drought areas. CPC will include an explanation of the rationale behind the U.S. drought outlook with a discussion of the weights given to various tools used in the outlook and the confidence in those tools. CPC usually highlights the reasoning behind monthly changes in U.S. Drought Outlook conditions. The following is a generic format. The latest discussion is at

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/DOD.html.

U.S. DROUGHT OUTLOOK DISCUSSION
NWS CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER CAMP SPRINGS MD
300 PM E-T THU mon # 20-
(text)
\$\$

2. Availability:

This is scheduled product. CPC issues this discussion once a month on the third Thursday of the month around 3:00 p.m. Eastern local time. CPC may issue updates (if the U.S. Drought Outlook is updated), typically near the end of the month. They will issue corrections as

needed. CPC issues the discussion on NWS dissemination systems under the following product IDs:

WMO heading FXUS22 KWNC - AWIPS ID PMDDRK

CPC also issues the discussion on the CPC web site at the URL listed in section a.

3. Additional Information:

- Valid Time: The product is valid for the remaining part of the issuance month plus the next three months.
- Product Expiration Time: The discussion expires with the issuance of the next outlook..
- Creation Software: CPC uses a text editor.